

Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of January 31, 2005

1. **Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project (Wards 1 & 3):** Staff has been informally informed that audible pedestrian activated signals will be installed at Philadelphia and Carroll Avenues, Tulip and Carroll Avenues, and Laurel and Carroll Avenues in conjunction with the streetscape project. *(Housing & Community Development)*

2. **Affordable Housing (City-wide):** Plans are in the making to establish a First Time Homebuyer's Club in Takoma Park that would hopefully start in May 2005. HCD would be partnering with the Consumer Credit Counseling Service and the Recreation Department to provide this services at a very minimal cost to tenants who are interested in eventually becoming home buyers. The Credit Counseling Service expects to hear this month from Montgomery County whether they received the grant to sponsor the program. The club would meet once a month for a full year and would provide educational seminars on various aspects of home buying. A very important aspect of the club would be dealing with credit repair, as it has been determined that this is one of the major obstacles people face when buying a home. The class will be limited to 20-25 people, but if successful, we hope to be able to offer this service on a regular basis. Please refer any interested tenant to Linda Walker at (301) 891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

3. **Community Center:** A request for a State bond bill (a type of State matching grant) for the Community Center has been submitted by District 20 Delegate Sheila Hixson, with support from Senator Ida Ruben and Delegates Peter Franchot and Gareth Murray. The request is for \$500,000. The amount we actually receive, if any, won't be known until mid-April. Hearings on bond bill requests will take place in March this year. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

4. **Electrical Aggregation Legislation:** A public hearing on State municipal electrical aggregation legislation is scheduled for 1 pm on February 15 in Annapolis. Several municipalities are discussing having a press event in support of the legislation that morning, then going to testify at the hearing. This legislation is a priority item for the Maryland Municipal League. It would give municipalities the option of negotiating the pricing and terms of electricity on behalf of its residents. (If a municipality chooses to act as an aggregator, residents would still have the option of choosing another provider, such as PEPCO.) Councilmembers and others who wish to go to Annapolis on the 15th to support this legislation should contact Suzanne Ludlow at 301-891-7229 or SuzanneL@takomagov.org. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

5. **CIP Public Hearing:** A Park and Planning public hearing on the next Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is scheduled for April 7 before the Planning Board. Advance notice is being given in order to allow community groups time to discuss and prepare comments on desired M-NCPPC park improvements. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

6. **Police Shift Changes:** Changeover for patrol squads takes place this weekend. Squad 1 (Sgt. Bowers) and 3 (Sgt. Frishkorn) will move the day shift. Squads 2 and 4, (Sgts. Hammond and Skibicki) move to the night squad, which should be considered when trying to reach these officers. This schedule will last through March 20. *(Police)*

7. **Officers in Training:** Cpl. Rodriguez and Ofc. McDowell will attend training to become instructors of field sobriety testing next week at the Frederick City Police Department. *(Police)*